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July 22, 1997

The Honorable Carol Browner
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Browner:

I am writing to express my concern about the recent discovery of perchlorate, a rocket fuel additive known to cause thyroid disorders, in East San Gabriel Valley groundwater.

It is my understanding that perchlorate was discovered in wells operated by the La Puente Valley County Water District Suburban Water Systems and the San Gabriel Valley Water Company. While these wells have been closed, I am seeking your leadership and expertise to address the concerns of over 1 million residents who rely on the San Gabriel Valley's groundwater basin.

In an effort to provide my constituency with ample information about this recent discovery, I am asking for your swift review of the contaminated wells and that you provide an overview of proposed coordinated cleanup. Please provide detailed information on the levels of contaminant discovered, EPA's standards for perchlorate and proposals to clean the contaminated wells.

Thank you for your expeditious review of this matter. I look forward to working with you to ensure the health and safety of local residents and to pursue an effective clean-up method that preserves this vital groundwater resource.

Sincerely,


ESTEBAN E. TORRES
Member of Congress

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cc: Felicia Marcus, Regional Administrator